

Benefice Prayer Diary
Marshfield with Cold Ashton and Tormarton with West Littleton
April 2020

A Benefice Prayer: Lord, let us not labour for you in vain. Teach us to pray, deepen our fellowship, enable our ministry, strengthen our benefice, and nurture our children. That, united in Christ, we might indeed become a holy temple in which you dwell by your Spirit. Amen

Wednesday 1st April:

“And what does the Lord require of you?. To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (*Micah 6:8*). Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you to live as God requests.

Thursday 2nd April:

“May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom and peace” (*Franciscan Benediction*)

Friday 3rd April:

Give thanks for the local GP practice and the services that it provides. Pray for all involved in caring for others in our communities and for those needing care.

Saturday 4th April:

Pray for other Christians who live in our communities but are not part of our parish churches. Remember particularly the congregation at Marshfield Chapel

Sunday 5th April: Palm Sunday

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Monday 6th April:

In our link Diocese of Mukono, Uganda, pray for the clergy and people of NGOGWE Archdeaconry and Parish

Tuesday 7th April:

Pray today for the parish of Marshfield, for its PCC, and their churchwardens Eric Pullin and Paul White.

Wednesday 8th April:

Tomorrow, the Church remembers Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran Pastor and martyr in 1945. Pray for all those who have suffered or are now suffering for their faith

Thursday 9th April: Maundy Thursday

God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may he nourish us by his presence, and unite us in his love; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Friday 10th April: Good Friday

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Saturday 11th April: Easter Eve

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptized into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ.

Sunday 12th April: Easter Day

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Monday 13th April:

In our link Diocese of Mukono, Uganda, pray for the members of the Mothers' Union.

Tuesday 14th April:

Pray today for the parish of Tormarton, for its PCC, and their churchwarden Bruce Finnermore.

Wednesday 15th April:

Today, give thanks for those moments in your life when you have had a resurrection experience. Reflect on the significance of that time, and help others towards their own resurrection experiences.

Thursday 16th April:

The risen Jesus was with the two disciples travelling to Emmaus, even though they didn't realise it till later. Pray for those who are searching for him today, that they may have a sense of his presence, and so can begin new lives with him as their daily companion.

Friday 17th April:

Christian Aid and other Christian organisations have long sought to share God's love through aid work. Pray for them, particularly their part in the fight against global poverty, injustice and disease.

Saturday 18th April:

Pray for all those who feel "trapped" - by illness, addictions, poverty, broken relationships or in other ways - that they may find the freedom that God longs to give them when they reach out to him.

Sunday 19th April: 2nd Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Monday 20th April:

In our link Diocese of Mukono, Uganda, pray for the staff of the Diocesan Office.

Tuesday 21st April:

Pray today for the parish of West Littleton, for its PCC and for their churchwarden David Adams.

Wednesday 22nd April:

"Faith can give us the courage to face the uncertainties of the future" (*Martin Luther King Jr.*) Pray that our faith will be greater than fear and be founded on Christ, so that we may be able to face with courage whatever lies ahead.

Thursday 23rd April:

Some of the prayers in this Diary are taken from "Families Worldwide", the Mothers' Union Prayer Diary. Pray for the local branch and for the worldwide work of MU in providing Christian care for families.

Friday 24th April:

"Of the greatness of Christ's government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness" (Isaiah 9:7). Pray for all who suffer under regimes where the values of God's kingdom are replaced by those of oppression and injustice.

Saturday 25th April:

Today, the Church remembers Mark the Evangelist. Pray that "we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the Gospel, may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed" (*from the Collect for the day*).

Sunday 26th April: 3rd Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Monday 27th April:

In our link Diocese of Mukono, Uganda, pray for the clergy and people of NDWADDEMUTWE Parish.

Tuesday 28th April:

Pray today for the parish of Cold Ashton, its PCC, and their churchwarden Monica Green.

Wednesday 29th April:

Pray for the Benefice Ministry Team members - Rev Sally Wheeler, Rev Lynne Godfrey, Andrew Gammie, Aurea Hart, Charles Keen and Mike Strathdee - and their ministry to us. Pray also for the other clergy and lay people who help maintain this ministry.

Thursday 30th April:

Pray for our diocesan Bishop, Vivienne Faull, our suffragan Bishop Lee Rayfield, and for the staff that support them in leading this diocese.

Please Note: If you would like a prayer to be included in our Tuesday prayer group or in this Prayer Diary, please contact Paul Sawyer, 16, Fairfield Close, Marshfield (891436)